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Manzanar Relocation Area
Manzanar, California
November 20, 1942

Mr. Stimpson
Mr. Leckner
c/o Open Forum, KFAC
Los Angeles, California

Gentlemen:

Sunday evening, November 15, 1942, there was a discussion of the subject, "Should the Japanese Americans Lose their Citizenship." The points brought forth were studied well, no doubt, but on the whole, they were inclined to be a little hysterical and unreasonable, it seems. I am not professing to be an authority on the situation; I am not professing to have a solution to the problem; I am only trying to bring out one person's opinion.

You made a statement to the effect that the loyalty of the American Japanese cannot and has not been proven. That may or may not be true, but--can any person pass on the absolute loyalty of any group of American citizens? Is there any group--community, city, or state--112,000 people--which will come forth truthfully with the assertion that it is wholeheartedly faithful to the last person towards the United States? No--that is impossible! There are always those few whose ties with their mother country are stronger than the ties with the United States. Where is the difference between these groups and the people of Japanese extraction? What right has anyone or any group to condemn one whole heterogeneous assemblage of people as being disloyal--as being dangerous to our country's welfare and well-being? None, I believe.

It was proposed that all persons of Japanese ancestry be deported to Japan. Utterly stupid! What sane, thinking person would ever condone such ignorant actions? The Americans with Japanese parents would not be welcome in Japan. I seriously doubt that Japan would welcome with open arms the Japanese who have resided in the United States for thirty to forty years. We are all much more American than Japanese. We have American habits, cultures, tastes, customs, and language. We will not work into the Japanese life--we do not want to fit into the

life of Japan! Furthermore, such deportation does not aid in the slightest our nation's war effort. Manpower is needed right now and all available manpower should be utilized regardless of race, color, or creed! The American Japanese have always desired to aid in the nationaly war effort, but they have not been accorded that opportunity towards which they have always looked forward. Now is the chance to give them the tangible means to begin to show their expressions of loyalty. Trained men are available and are eager to help. Deportation of all Japanese would be thwarting the effort. In the post-war world, help can be used from every quarter to assist in the reconstruction period which is sure to follow. Deportation is out of the question!

Americans of Japanese ancestry should not be deprived of their prized possession--American citizenship! What have they done to invoke such treatment? If anyone examines the records of American Japanese in the United States Army, he will discover that on a percentage basis involving the number of soldiers in the army and the number of citizens, the American Japanese rank very highly--much higher than many other groups. In addition, many more are willing to enter the armed services right now!

The Americans of Japanese ancestry are not saboteurs; they are not spies; they are not "Japs"! They are Americans--first, last, and always.

Very sincerely yours,

Paul H. Kusuda